



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Genesis 12: 1-4;
Psalm 32;
2 Timothy 1: 18-20;
Matthew 17: 1-9

**Welcome to this House
of God:
Talk to God before Mass
Listen to God during Mass
Talk to others after Mass**

This Week 5th March – 12th March (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 5th March Second Sunday of Lent Year A Retiring Collection for Cathedral Maintenance	8.30 am John Minister RIP (P & AC) 10.30 am Catherine Concannon RIP (BC) 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross
Monday 6th March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Graham Gaunt (PW)	5.00 pm: Interment of Ashes
Tuesday 7th March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am KO Varghese RIP	
Wednesday 8th March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am For the Victims of the Earthquakes (C & GP)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 9th March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD)	
Friday 10th March Lent Feria	9.00 am Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass (Michael O'Grady RIP, CE)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 11th March Lent Feria	11.00 am Mrs. Natasha Smith RIP (SVP)	9.30 am FHC Meeting 10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 12th March Third Sunday of Lent Year A Retiring Collection for CAFOD	8.30 am Abolition of the Death Penalty (MM) 10.30 am Patricia Fahy RIP (JL) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 2.30 pm: SVP Afternoon During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross

"Jesus never enters into dialogue with the devil, he does not negotiate with him, but he repels his insinuations with the beneficent Words of the Scripture. It is an invitation to us too; one cannot defeat him by negotiating with him, he is stronger than us. We defeat the devil by countering him in faith with the divine Word. In this way, Jesus teaches us to defend unity with God and among ourselves from the attacks of the divider. The divine Word that is Jesus' answer to the temptation of the devil." (Pope Francis, 26th February 2023)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

6.00 pm: The word of God is more desired than gold; the word of God is sweeter than honey. Light to our eyes, the Lord's command is clear; greater than gold the message of eternal life.

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)
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In an emergency, please contact: 07448 042484

Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Fr. Tom Kelly SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Bro. Patrick Leighton SCJ

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PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell:

Barbara Conway, Finbarr Cronin, Eileen Dalton, Frank Fawcett, Joan Graham, Bev Griffiths, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Sally McCool, Andrew McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman & Msgr. Graham Wilkinson

Due to the new data regulations (GDPR), the Archdiocese have requested that we do not list names unless we have the consent of the individual. If you would like your name to be included in this list please contact

Fr. George SCJ or Kate Dalgleish. Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Delores Delaney & George Conway** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass for George Conway will be on Monday 20th March at 11.00 am. Please keep their families and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

THE DIOCESAN VISION: UNFOLDING GOD'S PLAN FOR THE PARISH

The Diocesan Vision, published at Pentecost 2021, laid out the Archbishop's vision and dream for the future of our Diocese. In continuation of this a series of six sessions has been designed to help parishioners, parish leaders and small groups engage with the Vision, and think about how we can take practical steps to renew the mission and ministries within the parish. We plan to begin these sessions during Lent and continue during the Easter season. We invite the parishioners and parish groups to come along in a friendly manner to reflect and discuss about our parish life in line with the Diocesan Vision. The first session will begin on **Wednesday 15th March** at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall. The remaining 5 sessions will follow every Wednesday. Each session will start with an opening prayer, excerpt from the Diocesan Vision document, short reflection, questions/activities and conclusion. The sessions will be 90 minutes each.

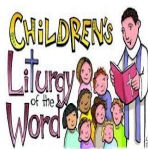
TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

On Monday 6th February, two earthquakes hit Syria and Turkey in the space of just 12 hours, killing more than 40,000 people and causing widespread devastation. Please keep those who have lost their lives, as well as the injured, family members, and rescuers in your kind thoughts and prayers. Links to the support the emergency response to those in need are:

Mary's Meals: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns>

CAFOD: <https://cafod.org.uk/?form=syriaturkeyearthquake>

DEC: <https://donation.dec.org.uk/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will next take place today during the 10.30 am Mass and on Sundays 12th, 19th & 26th March.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023

The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 17th June at 11.00 am with the Commitment Mass on Sunday 21st May at 10.30 am.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - LENT APPEAL

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world. There will be a retiring collection in aid of CAFOD on Sunday 12th March.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: FASHION SHOW & SUPPORTING PRISONERS AT LONG LARTIN PRISON

SVP are holding a fundraising fashion show on Saturday 22nd April at 4.00 pm. Tickets are now on sale after each Sunday mass priced £6.00 to include a glass of alcohol-free bubbly. We need to have final numbers of those intending to attend by the end of March. For more information please see the poster at the back of church or contact DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or 0777 292 7535.

The chaplaincy at Long Lartin Prison has asked if we can collect puzzle books, word searches, colouring books and colouring pencils/crayons for the prisoners to use in their own rooms. If you are able to donate any of these items they would be very much appreciated. Please leave in the SVP donations box at the back of church. Thank you for your support.

LENT 2023 ONLINE RETREAT

There will be an online Lent Retreat (produced by the Jesuits) starting on Ash Wednesday (22nd February) and running until Easter Sunday (9th April). Each day, the website/daily emails provide a piece of Scripture, a thought for the day, a picture to ponder on and a piece of music. The idea is to pray by oneself for around 15 minutes using these prayer materials. There is also a little bit on 40 different saints, one for each day of Lent. If you want, you can join in weekly online meetings in small groups to see how our prayer has been going. These meetings are really encouraging and helpful, but are voluntary. These will be on Mondays at 7.30 pm starting on 27th February. If you are interested or for more details, please contact Max and Cecilia Jourdier on 01886 812259 or mandcjourdier@gmail.com or go direct to the Retreat website <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent23.html>

REFUGEE COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who has donated to this appeal, as ever the items were superb. Sunday 5th March will be the final collection date for this consignment. Please continue knitting, but store the items at home until requested because of limited storage space in Church. The next appeal will probably be in April. Again thank you so much for your continual support.

JOB VACANCY

Father Hudson's Care are recruiting for an Estate Manager. For full information visit <https://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk/vacancies/facilities-manager/337.htm>

HOUSE MASSES DURING LENT

On Thursdays during Lent there will be House Masses celebrated in your own homes. If you would like to host a House Mass in your home, please let Fr. George know. The House Masses will start from Thursday the 2nd of March at 7.00 pm.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 13th March at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

CRIB DONATIONS

Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners who raised £95.06 through the church collections, for Christians in the Holy Land. Conditions continue to be extremely challenging. Please continue to remember FHL and those we support in your prayers.

Registered as a Charity, Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity Number 234216.

Main Collection:

£268.20

Gift Aid: £206.21

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 232**



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you would like some company, a drink, chat and cake then please come and join us on Sunday 12th March from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the Parish Hall. Please see the notice at the back of church for more information. You can contact us at DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Exodus 17: 3-7;

Psalms 94;

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8;

John 4: 5-42

Welcome to everyone at Mass today, especially if you are new to our church or haven't been to Mass for some time. If you are of another Christian denomination or non-Christian you are warmly invited to approach the priest or minister and ask or signify your wish for a blessing.

A story was told about an 8 month-old twin brother and sister in the womb of the mother having a conversation. The little sister said, I believe that there is life after birth. 'No, no, the brother protested. This is a dark and cosy place, and we have nothing else to do but to cling on to the cord that feeds us'. There must be something more than this dark place with light and freedom to move. But the little sister could not convince her brother. After a while she said, there is a mother who looks after us and cares for us. But the brother did not pay heed to that. Don't you feel the pressure and pain some time, said little sister, 'yes, this is to get us ready to go to another place, more beautiful and we will see our mother face to face' don't you think that is exciting? After a few weeks, one day the little sister left the womb and the brother was searching for her, 'why has she left and not come back?', after few minutes the little brother also left the womb and to his surprise, he saw a wonderful world and a beautiful mother holding them in her arms. Then he realised that his little sister was telling the truth.

In that story, the twin brother did not believe there was anything beyond what he could see, hear, and touch while his twin sister believed there was a life beyond what she could see, hear, and touch. On the mountain Tabor, Peter, James, and John saw that there was more to Jesus than the eye can see. During the transfiguration, they got a glimpse of the future glory of Jesus' resurrection. Like them, we too get glimpses of the presence of God in our lives. We get glimpses of God in the love we receive from other people. We get glimpses of God when badly needed help suddenly comes to us from out of nowhere. We get glimpses of God when we look back over our lives and what we couldn't understand in the past makes sense now. We see glimpses of God when we see someone making a sacrifice to help somebody else. We see glimpses of God when a passage from the Bible or a homily strikes a chord in our hearts. We get a glimpse of God when we spend time in prayer and experience the loving presence of God in our lives. We get more than just a glimpse of God when we receive the body of Jesus in Holy Communion. The transfiguration coming early in Lent encourages us to continue our Lenten penances because it reminds us of the glory of Jesus risen from the dead. So when our cross is heavy or when we are tempted to despair about the meaning of life, look beyond the pain of the present moment and remember those times when we got glimpses of God, those times when God sent us his consolations. Look beyond the pain of life and see the presence of God in our world, and the offer of life that God wants to make to each of us. Look beyond the illusion of happiness that this life offers to the real happiness that God offers us. Look beyond this world to eternal life with God.

In our first reading we heard Abram being called by God to leave his present place and go to a new country (Gen 12:1-4). He was seventy-five when called to leave his own country, but he had to wait another twenty-five years for the promised son Isaac to be born so that the promise of future descendants could be fulfilled. That was a long wait. With faith we can see what we cannot see with our eyes. The girl in the womb knew there was more than what she could see, hear, and touch. On the mountain, Peter, James, and John looked beyond the appearance of Jesus and saw his future risen glory. In this season of Lent, let us look beyond and see that God is really with us. God has not left us on our own. God is with us. Fr. George Mathew SCJ